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Please delete Claims 1-38 in the present application and insert the following claims:

39. (New) A method for determining the amount of toner required to render a print job using a print engine at a printing location without prior information about the toner level thereof, comprising the steps of:

5   accumulating in a first register the toner values of all the pixels in a rasterized image prior to sending the print job to the printing location;

decrementing the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location if the accumulated value is less than or equal to the toner level of the print engine; and

sending the print job to the print engine at the printing location for

10   rendering.

40. (New) The method of Claim 39, further comprising the step of:

sending the print job to an alternative print engine for rendering if the accumulated value is greater than the toner level of the print engine at the printing location.

41. (New) The method of Claim 39, wherein the step of accumulating comprises the steps of:

expressing the toner value of each pixel in the rasterized image as one of a plurality of incremental units between zero and maximum black; and

5   accumulating the toner values for all of the non-zero-valued pixels in the rasterized image in the first register.

42. (New) The method of Claim 41, wherein the step of decrementing comprises the steps of:

comparing the value in the first register with the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location; and

5   subtracting the value in the first register if it is less than or equal to the value in the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location.

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43. (New) The method of Claim 3̸2̸, wherein the step of accumulating comprises the steps of:

determining an average toner value for the pixels of the rasterized image;

5   defining the toner required for rendering the rasterized image as a percentage of a maximum black page; and

entering the defined toner required into a second register.

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44. (New) The method of Claim 4̸3̸, wherein the step of decrementing comprises the steps of:

comparing the value in the second register with the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location; and

5   subtracting the value in the second register if it is less than or equal to the value in the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location.

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please delete the entire Abstract of the Disclosure in the present application, and insert therefor:

--A method for determining the amount of toner required to render a print job using a print engine at a printing location without prior information about the toner level thereof, comprising the steps of accumulating in a first register the toner values of all the pixels in a rasterized image prior to sending the print job to the printing